

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1516

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, SZ, FR, IT

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

MEETING GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 22-27

REF: A) STATE 232799; B) STATE 241905

1. SUMMARY: SWISS AGREE WITH US POSITION ON MOST ISSUES.

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NO FIRM DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON SWISS PARTICIPATION

EXCEPT THAT IF THEY JOIN IT WILL BE AFTER THE FUND HAS BEEN IN OPERATION FOR SOME TIME. THE SIZE OF ANY EVENTUAL SWISS PLEDGE HAS, THEREFORE, NOT BEEN DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. ECON/COM COUNSELOR AND AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE CALLED ON HANS POPP, VICE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE TO BRIEF HIM ON THE US POSITION ON ISSUES COVERED REFTEL B AND OBTAIN SWISS VIEWS. THE MEETING WAS TIMELY IN THAT THE SWISS WILL MEET ON OCTOBER 15 TO PREPARE THEIR POSITION FOR THE DAC MEETING.

3. WHILE THE SWISS GENERALLY SUPPORT THE US POSITION ON THE ONE BILLION TARGET AS WELL AS THE 750 MILLION TRIGGER LEVEL, THEY HAVE NOT DECIDED WHETHER THEY WILL PARTICIPATE OR IF SO AT WHAT LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION. THEY HAVE DECIDED TO WAIT AND SEE HOW WELL THE FUND OPERATES. OUR SOURCE MADE CLEAR THAT IF THE SWISS DO PARTICIPATE IT PROBABLY WILL REQUIRE AN EQUIVALENT REDUCTION IN SOME OTHER SWISS AID PROGRAM. HE ALSO SAID THAT SWISS PARTICIPATION WILL DEPEND ON SATISFACTORY MECHANISMS TO ASSURE THAT THE MONEY WILL BE WISELY SPENT. HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT IF THIS CRITERION WAS MET THE SWISS WOULD JOIN.

4. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE SWISS WILL SUPPORT US VIEWS ON USE OF EXISTING INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND THE CANADIAN PROPOSAL, OR SOMETHING LIKE IT, FOR ARTICLE 6, SECTION 2(C). THE SWISS WILL ALSO SUPPORT THE US POSITION ON WEIGHTED VOTING.

5. THE SWISS AGREE THAT THE US POSITION ON MEMBERSHIP IS REASONABLE, BUT WOULD NOT WISH TO BE CAUGHT BETWEEN THE US AND THE EC ON THIS ISSUE. OUR SOURCE THOUGHT THAT OPEN SWISS SUPPORT IN A CONFLICT OVER THIS QUESTION WAS UNLIKELY.

6. THE SWISS HAVE AS YET NO POSITION ON THE OTHER QUESTIONS COVERED IN PARA 7 REFTEL B. WE WERE ASKED WHETHER IT WAS CERTAIN THESE MATTERS WOULD BE ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGENDA FOR THE DAC MEETING. WE REPLIED THAT WE WERE NOT CERTAIN, BUT THAT THEY WERE INCLUDED AMONG THE ISSUES THAT US BELIEVE MERIT DAC CONSIDERATION.

7. DR. POPP ASKED WHETHER WE HAD ANY VERY RECENT INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT ANY EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY MIGHT PARTICIPATE. WE SAID WE DID NOT; IF THE DEPARTMENT OR GENEVA HAVE ANYTHING THAT WE COULD

PASS ON TO THE SWISS ON THIS QUESTION IT WOULD BE
GREATLY APPRECIATED.
ODELL

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